

REMARKS

Examiner John K. Kim and Supervisory Patent Examiner Karl Tamai are thanked for conducting the personal interview with Applicant's representative, for providing helpful suggestion to amend the claims, and for preliminarily reviewing the above-submitted amended claims.

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

By the Response, claims 1 - 2 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 1-3 have been further amended to delete the reference numeral labeling of claimed limitations. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-3 are respectfully submitted for consideration. Approval and entry of the amendments are respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ueda et al. (US 2004/0075351, which is now issued as US 6,847,139 – hereinafter Ueda '139) as set forth in the final Office Action of June 20, 2008, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least for the reason that Ueda fails describe each and every limitation recited in amended claims 1-3.

As amended, claim 1 of the present invention recites, among other features, the outer circumferential portion (3a), the deflectable arms (3d), the annular portion (3c), and the securing planned positions (3e), or holes, as supported in Figs. 4 and 5 of the present application.

As discussed in paragraph [0004] of the original specification, in a conventional multifunction-type vibration actuator, however, since the suspension is bonded to the magnetic circuit part with adhesive or by laser welding in the desired position, the distance between this bonding position and the secured position of the suspension in the housing is always constant. Thus, it was difficult to tune the vibration frequency of the suspension in the assembly stage. As a result, a shift in the vibration frequency from the targeted value lowers the acceleration during actual operation, and variation in part processing accuracy destabilizes the quality of the finished product, leading to high manufacturing costs.

The presently claimed invention is advantageous over the above-mentioned conventional multifunction-type vibration actuator by solving the above-mentioned disadvantages by having securing planned positions (3e), or through- holes (3e), disposed on the annular portion (3c). By such a configuration, securing planned positions (3e), or through-holes (3e) may be selectively laser-welded so as to attach the suspension (3) to the magnetic circuit (2).

In contrast with Applicant's claimed invention, Ueda '139 shows supporting portion 50, spring arms (52a, 52b, and 52c), and fixing pieces (53a, 53b, and 53c). Applicant respectfully points out that the supporting portion 50 does not include any secured planned positions similar to Applicant's claimed feature so that selective bonding points may be used to attach the suspension to the magnetic circuit.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-3 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's representative, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

Respectfully submitted,

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